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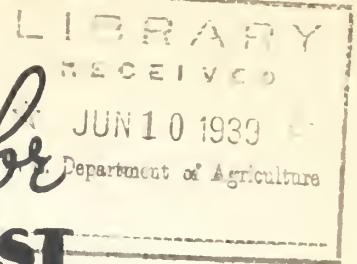
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NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN

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LARGER NORTHEAST PARTICIPATION THIS YEAR

Over 70% of the estimated number of commercial farms in the northeast region, or approximately three out of every four, are expected to take part in the 1939 agricultural conservation program. This substantial increase over 1938 indicates the greater understanding and appreciation by farmers of the necessity for the program and the important accomplishments already made.

The figures in the following table, showing by States the estimated number of commercial farms in the region, 1938 participation, and estimated 1939 participation, were given at the regional A.C.P. conference in Boston, April 25 and 26. Attended by State committeemen, State Executive Officers, and Washington representatives, the two-day program was devoted to a discussion of 1938 accomplishments, 1939 expectations, and the development of preliminary plans for the 1940 program.

Total northeast participation this year is expected to include approximately 233,000 of the estimated 324,000 commercial farms in the region, or about 72% participation. Every State reported an increase on the basis of signup completed by mid-April.

| State | Commercial Farms (Est.) | Farms Enrolled | | Percent of Commercial Farms Enrolled | |
|------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|---|------------------------|
| | | 1938 | 1939 (Est.) | 1938 Percent | 1939 (Est.) Percent |
| Maine | 22,460 | 19,538 | 19,700 | 87 | 88 |
| N. H. | 7,900 | 6,600 | 7,500 | 84 | 95 |
| Vermont | 14,000 | 9,684 | 13,000 | 69 | 93 |
| Mass. | 15,207 | 9,763 | 12,000 | 64 | 79 |
| R. I. | 1,200 | 720 | 1,000 | 60 | 83 |
| Conn. | 11,000 | 5,619 | 6,600 | 51 | 60 |
| New York | 108,000 | 51,249 | 62,000 | 47 | 57 |
| New Jersey | 19,750 | 15,590 | 16,500 | 79 | 84 |
| Penn. | 125,000 | 75,752 | 95,000 | 61 | 76 |
| NORTHEAST | 324,517 | 194,515 | 233,300 | 60 | 72 |

STATE REPORTS SHOW PROGRESS

Some of the highlights of committeemen's reports on the results and progress of the agricultural conservation program in the States are shown in the following excerpts from the discussion and comments at the regional conference in Boston:

New York: "We feel it is a farmers' program. I believe the proper understanding of the program, and getting the entire information to every man and child in the community, is what has put the program across. Less and less criticism is heard." -- Carl Wooster.

New Jersey: "The soil conservation program has taught farmers to use more materials. The increase in cover crops was about the same as the increase in lime and other materials used. About 85 to 90% of the larger potato growers are in the program and many of them give credit to the 1938 program for helping the price." -- Spencer W. Perrine.

Rhode Island: "Rhode Island is really going places as far as the program is concerned. The use of lime has increased so much we are having difficulty in getting lime to supply the demand. The use of phosphate has increased beyond expectations. A lot of farmers are beginning to use better soil practices, due to the teachings of the agricultural conservation program." -- Jacob Menzi.

New Hampshire: "We have gone a long way since this program started, especially in a better understanding of each other and in knowing each other better. We have a little more confidence in one another. We have gone a long way in selling the program to the general public. We are proud of the fact New Hampshire is going to have more and more general acceptance of the program. People seem to be pretty well satisfied, and we are looking forward to more participation than we had last year." -- J. Ralph Graham.

Maine: "It is my opinion that the program has done something more valuable than is represented by these particular practices in the way of bringing education to the farmers. Since this program they have learned what lime will do. They are looking into plant food analysis and asking what to use for this problem or that problem. To me this is a very encouraging thing...The improvement in income through this program has done a lot...I can see improvement along cooperative lines. Through this program farmers back in the States are taking a broader viewpoint. They are talking this whole situation over and finding farmers in other States have a right to live and prosper just as they have themselves. The farmers are finding they have problems in common with other farmers producing other commodities over the entire country...In 1938 our potato allotment was 144,390 acres. Our 1938 planted acreage was 143,838." -- Carl R. Smith.

Pennsylvania: "In addition, the community committeemen are contacting high schools, speaking to the boys, and these boys, in turn, are explaining the program to their fathers. The community committeemen are meeting with the bankers, and the bankers discuss the program with the farmers. A few words from the bankers seem to go a long way toward getting the farmers to go along with the program." -- James E. Walker.

Connecticut: "The use of limestone in Connecticut has increased about 300% since the program started, as near as can be estimated. It is expected about 40,000 tons will be used in 1939. About the same increase is true in the use of superphosphate." -- F. W. Wooding.

Vermont: "The excellent work of community committeemen is reflected in the large signup and the large participation. The program has been supervised in a very efficient manner. It is administered by the farmers themselves." -- Dana M. Smith.

"As far as the program and its accomplishments are concerned, I have not grasped any criticism in our state, unless it would be that there is not enough of it. The farmers have made great strides, and are improving their pastures through the use of lime and superphosphate." -- E. Frank Branon.

Massachusetts: "There was a decided increase in practices last year, even where only a small amount is involved. The acreage of green manure crops increased 140% compared with 1937. Acreage of woodland improved last year increased 45%, and acres of woodland planted increased 56%. The tonnage of superphosphate used in the 1938 program was 53% larger than in 1937, and the tonnage of potash was 34% larger." -- Shaun Kelly.

FARMERS CONSCIOUS OF REGIONAL PROBLEMS

"Farmers in other farming regions throughout the country are conscious of the farm problems in the northeast, just as northeastern farmers are conscious of the farm problems existing in other agricultural regions," said Administrator R. M. Evans in his talk following the committeemen's dinner at the Boston conference. Other quotations from Mr. Evans' talk follow:

"The total world export market for wheat is limited to about 500 million bushels. The United States has had to find an export market for 100 million bushels. The wheat export subsidy program cost about 20 million dollars, but for every dollar put into the program, the American wheat farmer realized about \$5.00."

"Roughly speaking, the American people spend about 30% of their income for food and clothing."

"If our national income were 80 billion dollars, the United States farmers' annual gross income would be about 12 billion dollars."

"The American people have come to realize that if the fertility of our soil declines, farm income will decline, and the towns and cities will feel the decline in a lack of business. America is becoming conservation-minded."

"The cotton problem is also a northeast problem. What will the northeast do if the cotton farmer does not find a market for his cotton and is forced into competition with the northeast and the corn belt?"

CONSERVATION PROGRAM INCREASES GOOD FARMING PRACTICES

More lime and superphosphate used on northeast farms, and larger acreages of green manure crops and new seedings are among the outstanding results of the agricultural conservation program in the region, according to reports of state committeemen at the Boston conference.

In Vermont farmers used from 3,000 to 3,500 tons of lime and about the same amount of superphosphate each year prior to 1933. Last year they used 20,947 tons of lime and 25,235 tons of superphosphate. The annual need is estimated at about 283,000 tons of lime and 141,000 tons of superphosphate for cropland and pasture.

Maine farmers used from 3,000 to 9,000 tons of lime annually prior to 1935. In 1938 they spread 38,000 tons. The use of superphosphate has increased from practically none before the program to 7,325 tons last year. Potash has increased from practically none before 1936 to 340 tons in 1938. New seedings increased from 66,742 acres in 1936 to 101,000 acres last year, and green manure crops from 15,000 acres to 24,000 acres in 1938.

New Hampshire farmers in 1936 used 1,246 tons of 16% superphosphate; last year 5,263 tons. Potash increased from 267 tons in 1936 to 363 tons in 1938; lime from 5,370 tons to 12,046 tons; orchard mulching material from 846 tons in 1937 to 1,678 tons last year. Acreage of woodland improved in 1937 was 1,608; last year 3,307 acres.

In 1936 New York farmers used 57,520 tons of superphosphate and 156,000 tons of lime; last year 66,166 tons of superphosphate and 314,980 tons of lime. In 1936 they reforested 700 acres; last year 1,928 acres.

1940 WHEAT PROGRAM FURTHER IMPROVED

County committeemen in the three northeastern states which grow wheat, Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey, will soon establish allotments and inform farmers about the 1940 wheat program. As the 1940 national allotment will be slightly larger than that for 1939 because of smaller wheat supplies available for 1939-40, the committees will have small increases in the county allotments to use in meeting their allotment problems.

Under the 1940 program, an allotment is available for each farm growing wheat. If the farmer *accepts the allotment*, his compliance will be checked on the basis of the acreage of wheat planted; he will be eligible for a payment computed on the allotment, and the payment will be subject to a deduction for acreage planted in excess of the allotment. If the farm is a non-allotment farm, it will not be eligible for payment but will not be subject to a deduction unless the acreage of wheat harvested exceeds 10 acres, and also exceeds the usual acreage on the farm.

Under this program, it is possible for farms on which wheat is planted as a cover crop to become non-allotment farms and not be subject to a deduction from the conservation payment unless wheat is harvested from more than the usual acreage.